(Rev. 10-90) NPS Form 10-900 NRHP 4/4/7

OMB No. 1024-0018

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is foruse in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or enripture, to complete all items.

1. Name of Pr	operty		
historic name	Zion Methodist Church		
other names/sit	e number BHR Number 122-0110		
	Norfolk United Methodist	Church	
2. Location			
street & numbe	er 2729 Bowden's Ferry Road		not for publication
city or town	Norfolk		vicinity
state Virgin		Norfolk (ind.) code 710 Zip	
3. State/Feder	al Agency Certification		
As the designa	ted authority under the National Histo	ric Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I	
		y meets the documentation standards for re	
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		lational Register Criteria. I recommend that	
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4. National Pa	rk Service Certification		
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Name of related m	nultiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) $N/A$	<u> </u>				
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of	Significance
	onal Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National
Register listing)	
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C _ <u>X</u>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Conside	erations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
B rem C a bin D a ce E a rec F a co	ned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  oved from its original location.  thplace or a grave.  metery.  constructed building, object or structure.  mmemorative property.  than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
	cance (Enter categories from instructions) ECTURE
ARCHII	ECTURE
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Period of Signifi	cance 1896-1916
Significant Date	
	1897—completion of church
	1916—addition made
Significant Pers	on (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  N/A
Cultural Affiliat	ion N/A
Architect/Builde	er Wickam Custis Taylor (1916 annex)
Narrative States	ment of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliog	graphical References
Bibliography	
	articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
	entation on file (NPS) inary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
	usly listed in the National Register
	usly determined eligible by the National Register
	ated a National Historic Landmark
record	ed by Historic American Buildings Survey #
record	ed by Historic American Engineering Record #
<b>Primary Location</b>	on of Additional Data

X State	Historic Preservation	Office.					
Other	State agency						
Feder	al agency						
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11. Form Prepa	red By						
name/title:	Kimble A. David for	r Commonwealt	h Preserva	tion Group, L	LC		
Organization						date:	2006
street & number	er P O Box 4266					telephone	757/923.1900
city or town:	Suffolk			state:	VA	zip code:	23439
Additional Doc	umentation						
Submit the follo	wing items with the c	completed form:					
Continuation S	heets						
Maps A USG	S map (7.5 or 15 min	ute series) indic	ating the p	roperty's loca	ition.		
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city or town	Norfolk			state VA	zip	code	23510
Paperwork Reduct	on Act Statement: This is	formation is being o	collected for a	======= applications to the	===== e Nationa	Register of Histor	======================================

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**  **Zion Methodist Church Norfolk (independent city), Virginia** 

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#### **Summary Architectural Description:**

Zion Methodist Church was erected in 1896-1897 and is an example of a Victorian Romanesque Church situated in the former rural Norfolk County. Norfolk County originally encompassed land area in the current Cities of Norfolk and Chesapeake. This building is a modest one-story brick church topped by a side-gable roof. The façade is three-bay dominated by a projecting bay flanked by towers of differing heights. The building exhibits tripartite stained-glass windows with rosettes at each gable end. Additional stained glass windows are situated on the projecting façade bay and towers. The canted bay features brick corbelling, and the towers feature polychromed brickwork. The interior of the building features plastered walls and a barrel vaulted ceiling. The pulpit is situated at the east end within the central canted bay. The entrance vestibule is located within the taller tower and the pastor's office is located north of the pulpit in the shorter tower. The annex, constructed in 1916 and designed by Wickam Custis Taylor, is accessed by three overhead roll-up doors and exhibits an open mezzanine comprised of offices with offices and meeting spaces below. The annex serves for additional sanctuary space as well. The Zion Methodist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Architecture) and Criterion Exception A (Religious Property) from the period 1896 to 1916.

#### Architectural Description:

This building is a Victorian Romanesque Revival church with a two tower façade. The building is brick construction clad in common bond brick veneer. The church is topped with a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles that appear as slate shingles, which was the original roofing material. The east façade is symmetrical with a central projecting canted intersecting gabled block flanked by two towers of differing heights. The south tower is square, topped with a pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles. The tower features an open belfry marked by tripartite, rusticated limestone rounded arches, supported by corbelled brick capitals. Above the arches is patterned polychromed brickwork in a zigzag pattern. A recessed brick panel is below the belfry. On the east façade of the tower's base is a double-leaf wood door, articulated with a rounded arch transom surmounting a rectangular transom. The arch is framed in rusticated limestone. The north tower is canted with an octagonal roof and polychromed brick zigzag pattern within the frieze. The tower features large stained-glass wood-frame double-hung sash windows with rounded tops. Rusticated limestone is featured both over the window arches, and on the window sills. A single-leaf wood door is situated on the south canted wall of this tower. It features a rounded arch transom articulated by rusticated limestone. The central projecting gabled bay is canted with window openings on each elevation. The windows on the canted walls are fixed woodframe and stained-glass with rounded arch tops. Limestone is present over the window arches and on

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the window sills. There is a recessed brick panel on the central bay of the canted bay. Surmounting the recessed brick panel is a window opening with a rounded arch top. The window is fixed woodframe and stained-glass, articulated by limestone. The gable surmounting the bay is steeply-pitched with a wood raking cornice and cornice returns. The frieze of the raking cornice features a polychromed brick zigzag pattern. Below the cornice returns are corbelled brick supports terminating at the tops of the canted wall windows. The north and south elevations feature three rounded arch window openings. There is a wood cornice applied to the roofline articulated with a polychromed brick zigzag patterned frieze. An oculus is situated at the top of the wall within the gable containing a wood vent and is surrounded by rusticated limestone. The windows are stained glass within wood frames. They also feature limestone-articulated arches and sills. The building has a raised brick watertable.

In 1916 a brick educational annex, retaining the general character of the original church, was added to the church's west side. The annex is two-stories and is topped with a flat roof behind a built-up parapet. The original roof of the annex, which was removed in the late 20th century, was hipped. The annex extends beyond the north and south walls. Both first and second store windows have limestone sills. The first story windows also feature rounded arch tops articulated with limestone and are wood 6/6 double-hung sash. The second story windows are also double-hung sash. A one-story canted entry was added on the south elevation and is marked by a double-leaf entrance and limestone wall coping. The double-leaf doors have rounded tops, wood panels, and multiple-lights. The door surround features rusticated limestone articulation.

The interior of the building reflects the two distinct stages of construction. The sanctuary is comprised of a pulpit at the east end within the central projecting intersecting gable, which extends into the main sanctuary. The pulpit has been expanded over time and the original pulpit remains under the current configuration. The sanctuary is open with a sloped floor of tongue-and-groove pine. The interior brick walls are clad in plaster and the barrel vault marking the ceiling is clad in plaster on lathe. There is a small pastor's office on the northeast corner, within the shorter tower, and a vestibule at the southeast corner within the tower with belfry. The vestibule is has a double-leaf door to the sanctuary and a five-panel wood single-leaf door to the pulpit. There are three overhead roll-up doors on the west elevation flanked by single-leaf door openings. The roll-up doors are wood with plaques noting that the manufacturer was J. G. Wilson Mfg Co. of South Norfolk, Virginia. The patent date is June 18, 1889 and the date of the door is noted as January 21, 1890. The single-leaf doors are multiple-light with rounded arch tops.

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The annex is an open space with a mezzanine walkway around the central open space. Offices and meeting rooms have been subdivided around the mezzanine walkway. The area under the mezzanine on the first story has been subdivided into classrooms and offices. There is a kitchen situated at the northwest corner. The mezzanine is supported by wood posts and features a wood railing. The walls are wallboard and the flooring is vinyl tile. Acoustical dropped ceilings are wallboard and are in varying states of disrepair. Stairs to the basement story and mezzanine level are situated on the north and south ends of the annex near the east end. The stairs have wood risers and treads. The railings are wood and the newels, stanchions and balusters are squared. The basement story is comprised of an open space under the annex. It has parged walls and a concrete slab floor.

The building recently completed a restoration, using historic preservation tax credits. Rehabilitation work included repointing brick on the exterior, installing a synthetic slate roof on the main body of the sanctuary, and restoring the interior of the sanctuary and addition. Material covering dating to the 1960s (suspended ceiling over original sanctuary vault, wall to wall carpeting and modern pressure treated wood paneling on the walls) was removed, yielding original material treatment including plastered brick walls on the interior and original wood tongue-and-groove flooring. In the sanctuary, plaster was replaced on the walls and the barrel vaulted ceiling, and the pulpit and pews, formerly in the additions, have been placed in their original positions. The roll-up doors manufactured by J. G. Wilson and Company of South Norfolk are original to the building (1896-1897), and divided the annex from the sanctuary. The windows are original to the building and annex.

The architect for the main church building is unknown. It has been speculated that the building was architect designed or the design was provided by pattern books available at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for ecclestical buildings. The annex was designed by Norfolk architect, Wickam Custis Taylor.

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# **Summary Statement of Significance:**

Zion Methodist Church was erected in 1896-1897 in the Late Victorian Romanesque Revival style. The church replaced an earlier building on site, which was relocated opposite Bowden's Ferry Road in Norfolk County, Virginia. The church is an example of Late Victorian Romanesque Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Norfolk, which is currently situated within the Cities of Norfolk and Chesapeake. The community of Lambert's Point was planned on the farmlands surrounding the church and its development coincides with the church's construction. In 1916 the church was expanded and an annex was appended to the west elevation replacing an earlier smaller annex that was part of the original church's design. Wickam Custis Taylor, a Cornell University graduate and native Norfolkian, designed the annex. The Zion Methodist Church is eligible under Criterion C (Architecture) and Criterion Exception A (Religious Facility) from the period of 1896-1916, which reflects the construction period of the church and subsequent addition.

#### Statement of Significance:

Zion Methodist Church was one of the first Methodist churches founded in Norfolk, Virginia. Methodism arrived in Norfolk in 1772 when the Reverend Robert Williams opened a mission and preached on the steps of the Norfolk Courthouse.

In 1793, a Methodist reverend held services in the house of Lieutenant Andrew Weir, situated north of the present city of Norfolk in the former Norfolk County. The house, now since demolished, was located along the Lafayette River, at the terminus of today's Magnolia Avenue. It is from these services that Zion Methodist Church was founded. The congregation moved in 1802 to a lot near the present site on lands owned by George and Sarah Wilson. On 30 March 1830, the Wilsons formally deeded the present site, a one-acre lot, to the trustees of the Zion Methodist Church. According to church history, the church situated on the former site was relocated to the new site upon purchase. A new church was erected on this site prior to the Civil War to accommodate the larger congregation.

During the Civil War, the site was used as a camp by Union soldiers. In 1864-1865 Union soldiers shot through the building walls and stabled horses within the building. After the war, the church filed for damages with the Federal Government and received \$700.00 for them in 1917.<sup>1</sup>

In 1893 Reverend W. G. Boggs was appointed pastor of the Zion Methodist Church. Prior to the appointment of Boggs, the church was on the East Norfolk Circuit composed of Denby, Ebenezer and Zion Methodist Churches. A single pastor was responsible for the three congregations. It was also

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during this period that suburban development was extending northward from the city of Norfolk consuming former farmland for the erection of housing developments. The site of Zion Methodist Church was at the juncture of Lambert's Point Road and Bowden's Ferry Road on what was agricultural property north of the city of Norfolk. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, development pressure north and east of the city prompted the sale of small farms by real estate developers for the erection of planned suburbs. In the late 19th century, the lands surrounding Zion Methodist Church were purchased by real estate developers and planned in a gridiron fashion for the erection of housing. Nearby industries of the Norfolk and Western coal piers erected in 1884 with its connecting rail line spurred the development of industries along spur lines off the main railroad line.<sup>2</sup>

In 1896, a new church, the present building, was built on the 1830 site, replacing a wood frame church. The church's educational annex was replaced by the current addition in 1916. The wood frame church building was relocated across Bowden's Ferry Road on a site currently occupied by a school. The congregation held services in the building until 1960, when it merged with Grace Methodist Church to become Zion Grace Methodist Church. The merged congregations erected a new building on Little Creek Road in Norfolk. The building was sold to the Norfolk United Methodist Church who operated in the building until the late 20th century. The building was sold to the present owner and is currently used as a religious building.<sup>3</sup>

The Cities of Norfolk and Chesapeake currently encompass the land which was originally Norfolk County. Norfolk County extended north and east of the original 1752 City of Norfolk and encompassed what is now the City of Chesapeake. Norfolk County was primarily rural agricultural property through the early 20th century. Areas in the southern section of the City of Chesapeake retain the rural feeling of the original Norfolk County. The current City of Norfolk has been developed with suburban growth dating from the turn of the 20th century through the late 20th century. There were a number of small 19th century villages and towns primarily situated along railroad lines and major roadways within Norfolk County. Churches in the late 19th century in Norfolk County were primarily rural and situated along these roadways serving the agricultural community. The expansion of the City of Norfolk into the immediate surrounding areas occurred in the late 19th century with the development of suburban neighborhood plans. Suburban development occurred to the north and east of the original city, and radiated outward through the 20th century. The first suburban development in the City of Norfolk dates to 1890 and subsequent developments primarily date to the turn of the 20th century and into the early 20th century.

The area where the Zion Methodist Church is situated is located within the Lambert's Point suburban development, which dates to the turn of the 20th century. The church site predates the development of

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this early suburb. A rural frame church, dating to the early 19th century, sat on the site. When the current church was constructed, the frame church was relocated across the street. The frame church was later demolished. The location of Zion Methodist Church is along two 18th century roadways connecting Lambert's Point at Hampton Roads and downtown Norfolk. The area was primarily rural, comprised of small farmsteads ranging from 50 to 300 acres. The Weir family was a large landowner in the area and provided lands for the original church congregation. The church's congregation drew from the rural agricultural properties.

The Zion Methodist Church reflects the development of rural church buildings. According to historic architectural survey information housed at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, rural churches were primarily frame buildings with Gothic Revival details dating from the period 1880 to 1910. These churches were situated on main roadways within the rural setting. The Zion Methodist Church is a Victorian Romanesque-style brick building with stone details; other examples are not found within the remaining former Norfolk County. While the neighborhood surrounding it dates to the period immediately following the construction of the church, the location, style and form are more common of a rural church.

The Lambert's Point neighborhood reflects the development of suburban style expansion around the city of Norfolk and boasts a Baptist church near the Zion Methodist Church, named Lambert's Point Baptist Church. This building dates to 1897, constructed a year after the Zion Methodist Church, in conjunction with the platting of the rural farmland into a suburban development. Unlike the Zion Methodist Church, the Lambert's Point Baptist Church is a large-scale suburban church typical of churches constructed in the newly developed suburbs surrounding the City of Norfolk. The contrast of massing and scale between Zion Methodist Church and Lambert's Point Baptist Church directly correlates with the development activity in the area in 1897, which changed in character from rural/agricultural to suburban. Lambert's Point Baptist Church is similar to other churches constructed in the adjacent Park Place Historic District in its monumental scale and prominence at a major intersection. Unlike the larger churches in the area, the Zion Methodist Church has a similar scale to the surrounding residential buildings, which is more typical of rural ecclesiastical architecture.<sup>5</sup>

The 1896-1897 Zion Methodist Church building (current building) is approximately the same size as the former frame church on the site, which at the time of its construction was a rural frame church. The church was originally comprised of the current sanctuary and an annex to the rear. The architect associated with the 1896-1897 church building is unknown. It has been surmised that the building was architect designed, but there are no references within remaining documents to indicate an architect. It was also common for congregations to purchase patterns from pattern books to use for a church design.

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This may have been the case for this building, but this is unknown.

By 1916, the congregation had grown and a new annex was commissioned to replace the earlier annex. It was designed by Norfolk architect, Wickam Custis Taylor, who designed numerous residential, commercial and ecclesiastical buildings within the City of Norfolk. Taylor was born in 1882 in Norfolk and attended Norfolk Academy. He studied architecture at Cornell University. In 1906, Taylor won two coveted honors in architecture; the Brown Medal and Charles Goodwin Sands Memorial Medal, the two highest honors a student can attain in the study of architecture. They are granted to students at technical universities and colleges upon completion of their degrees. The winners are selected by a committee of architects, composed of members of the American and Paris Beaux Arts Society.

This building is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (Architecture) for its architectural design and integrity, and Criterion Consideration A (Religious Facility). The building is an example of ecclesiastical architecture of the Late Victorian period and is uncommon to rural areas of the former Norfolk County. It exhibits a higher style of architecture than the more common frame buildings that typified the rural areas of the County. Though now located within a planned suburban community within the City of Norfolk, its site reflects the original lot deeded to the original congregation when the area primarily served an agricultural function.

#### Endnotes:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. <u>Map of Norfolk</u>. Philadelphia: 1923, updated 1958

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Pastor Keeps Busy Serving Two Active Congregations." The Norfolk Ledger. 6 November 1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. <u>Map of Norfolk</u>. Philadelphia: 1923, updated 1958.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This evaluation was made after reviewing the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' architectural survey files and architectural history evaluations for the City of Norfolk and the City of Chesapeake.

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# Bibliography:

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Years: 1890-1923.

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- "Zion ME Church to Observe Its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Today." (Article housed at the Sargeant Memorial Room of the Norfolk Public Library—newspaper name not noted). N.d.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Zion Methodist Church Norfolk (independent city), Virginia

### Section 10, Photographic Data Page 10

Geographical Data:

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The parcel is that which is known as 2729 Bowden's Ferry Road in Norfolk, Virginia, and referred to as Parcel A on Real Estate Property Map Page 603 of the Assessor's Office in the City of Norfolk.

#### Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Zion Methodist Church are historically associated with the church and are the current boundaries of the property.

#### Photographic Data:

The following is the same for all photographs:

Zion Methodist Church, Norfolk, Virginia (#122-0110)

Photographer: Kimble David Photos Taken: September 2006 Negative Number 23113

Negatives stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

#### Photograph List:

1 of 9: SE oblique

2 of 9: East façade

3 of 9: Annex—looking east to sanctuary

4 of 9: Sanctuary—looking SW

5 of 9: Annex—looking NW

6 of 9: Annex—looking SE from 2nd story

7 of 9: Office—looking south

8 of 9: Stair—looking north

9 of 9: Basement—foundation detail at NW corner of sanctuary

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